

UNCLASIFIED

Incident 12

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FROM THE OREGON JOURNAL - 5 July 1947, Portland, Ore.

"PROWL CARS SPOT DISKS IN SKY HERE"

Whatever they are, there are some disk-like objects flying around in the sky.

Or else eight Portland area policemen and deputy sheriffs who sighted the objects Friday, numerous private citizens, the crew of a United Air Lines plane over Boise, Idaho, and a coastguardsman who claims to have photographed one near Seattle, are all wrong.

In Portland the alert was sounded over police radio at 1:06 p.m. Friday, after the East Side station received a score of calls that the disks were overhead. Within seconds, two prowl cars reported spotting the mystery craft.

FLASHES SEEN, NOISE LACKING.

First to report in were Patrolmen Walter Lissy and Robert Ellis in Car No. 82, who stopped near Oaks Park. Both World War II veterans and civilian pilots, they sighted three of the objects within 30 seconds traveling at great height and speed over the park. They reported they heard no engine noises but saw flashes. The objects seemed erratic and changed direction of flight. The patrolmen agreed that without knowledge of the size of the objects it would be impossible to judge their speed or altitude.

Patrolman Earl Patterson in car No. 13 stopped at SE 82d avenue and Foster road to look eastward from there the disks were reported. Telephone calls located them coming out of the sun. He saw nothing, but a few seconds later observed one coming out of the west and heading southwest. The craft seemed to be aluminum or eggshell white and didn't flash or reflect light, he said.

OBJECTS UNIDENTIFIED.

A former aircorps veteran, he said the object was unlike any plane he'd ever seen. He thought it appeared radio-controlled because the disk could change direction at a 90-degree angle without difficulty.

Members of the harbor patrol at the foot of NW Irving street stepped out when they heard the all-car alert. Capt. K. A. Prehn, Harbor Pilot, A. T. Austed and Patrolman K. C. Hoff all saw the objects and said they appeared to be going south high over the Globe mills at terrific speed. Capt. Prehn said the flashes kept them from ascertaining whether there were three or six.

"The disks would oscillate and sometimes we would see a full disk, then a half-moon shape, then nothing at all," he reported. The objects looked more like a shiny chromium hub cap off a car which wobbled, disappeared and reappeared."

There was a plane in the sky at the time, but all were emphatic that the disks were not planes.

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FROM THE OREGON JOURNAL - 5 July 1947, Portland, Ore.

AIRLINES CREW CONFIRMS REPORTS OF FLYING DISKS: FIVE SPOTTED.

Circumstantial reports of flying disks in the sky Friday came from the crew of a United Airlines plane over Boise, Idaho, and a coast guardsman near Seattle, as well as from Portland area police and citizens.

[REDACTED], captain of the airliner, told United Press that he sighted five "somethings" which were "thin and smooth on the bottom and rough appearing on top." The objects appeared against the sunset shortly after the plane took off at 8:04 p.m., he said.

"We saw them clearly," he reported. "We followed them in a north-westerly direction for about 45 miles. Finally the objects disappeared. We were unable to tell whether they outsped us or disintegrated.

NOT AIRCRAFT.

"We can't say whether they were saucer-like, oval or anything else," the captain said, "but whatever they were, they were not another aircraft, nor were they smoke or clouds."

In Seattle, Coast Guardsman Frank Ryman, 27, reported to United Press that he snapped a picture from the front porch of his home which showed a "white saucer" flying over the north end of Lake Washington.

Acme News Pictures, New York City, said a 7x9 inch print of the photograph showed two tiny dots, one of which was a flaw in the print.

[REDACTED], 19, Oaks Amusement park employe, reported that he saw several objects "like spinning disks" in the sky Friday. He said several picnickers, including a woman pilot noticed them.

In Vancouver, Wash., Sheriff's Deputies John Sullivan, Clarence McKay and Fred Krives heard the Portland police radio broadcast and ran out of the sheriff's office to look at the sky. Over Portland, three to five miles away, Sullivan said, they saw 20 to 30 objects "like a flight of geese." They heard a low humming sound.

OTHERS DOUBTFUL.

Col. G. R. Dodson, commander of the Oregon national guard, made an inspection of this area from the air after the disks were reported here. He said he saw nothing "suspicious."

Only known military airplanes in the air at the time of the reports were 23 B-29 bombers near Astoria.

Despite all the reports, at least two persons remained unconvinced of the existence of the disks. [REDACTED], Holgate moorage, gave his opinion that the objects were cottonwood blossoms.

[REDACTED], 64, of [REDACTED] telephoned the Journal to berate the newspapers for "perpetuating a hoax." He said he saw objects in the sky about a minute after an airplane passed over his house. To him the objects looked like bits of aluminum foil, perhaps cigarette wrappers.

[REDACTED]

From the Oregon Journal - continued.

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MORE SEEN LATER.

Several late flights of objects over Portland were reported Friday afternoon. [REDACTED] avenue, said he saw three fly east across the Willamette river near the Ross Island bridge about 2 p.m.

The objects did not appear high, he said, and were traveling so fast that, appearing in the west, they were out of sight in the east in two to four seconds. He said they resembled metallic disks glinting in the sunlight.

Later, he said, he and neighbors saw a single disk-like object flying north far away and very high.

At 4:30 p.m., Mrs. [REDACTED], reported sighting a disk "like a new dime flipping around" in the air over the Sandy district. She said it seemed to be moving slowly.

PAPER RECOVERED.

[REDACTED] said he sighted two white or silver objects flying southeast high over Portland a few minutes before 5 p.m. He reported another, headed northeast, over his home at 5:30 p.m.

[REDACTED] reported that four disks flew past Mount Jefferson at about 11 a.m. while he was driving near Redmond.

[REDACTED] recovered from Rose City golf course a piece of paper he said had fallen from a great height in the sky. Time of its fall coincided with some of the reports of flying disks. The paper, of low quality, measured $23\frac{1}{2}$ x 36 inches.

SILVERED DISKS, DROPPED BY PLANE.

EUGENE, July 5 -(AP)- A Eugene railroad cashier said Friday he saw silvered disks being dropped out of a light airplane flying over this city.

[REDACTED] an assistant cashier for the Southern Pacific Railroad, said he was driving on a Eugene street when --

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[REDACTED]

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 5

1. Date 4 July 1947
2. Time 1305
3. Location Portland, Oregon
4. Name of observer Kenneth A. McDowell
5. Occupation of observer Patrolman, Portland City Police
6. Address of observer Portland City Police Dept., Portland, Oregon
7. Place of observation Parking lot back of police station
45° 30' N 122° 33' W
8. Number of objects 5
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude N/S
12. Speed Great speed
13. Direction of flight 2 discs flying south, 3. in easterly direction
14. Tactics Dipped up and down in oscillating motion at great speed
15. Sound None
16. Size ~~N/S~~ Large
17. Color Could not be determined
18. Shape Round - disc-shaped
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails N/S - No visible means of propulsion observed
22. Weather conditions N/S
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance Quickly - before any detailed observation could be made
26. Remarks:

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(over)

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Officer McDowell stated that at approximately 1305, 4 July 1947 while he was on duty at Precinct #1 and feeding the pigeons in the parking lot back of the station he noticed that the pigeons became quite excited over something and flattered in the air. Officer McDowell in looking around to see what had disturbed them saw 5 large discs in the air east of Portland; two discs flying south and three flying in an easterly direction. He stated he could determine no color to the discs but advised they were dipping in an up and down oscillating motion and were traveling at great speed. He was unable to give an estimate of the speed or altitude of the discs as they were out of sight before any detailed observation could be made. Officer McDowell advised that he notified the Police Radio who immediately broadcast an alert. He saw no indication of any motivating force nor heard any sound coming from the discs and could give no description other than round.

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1. Date: 1 July 47
2. Time: 1305
3. Location: Milwaukie, Oregon
4. Name of observer: Sergeant Claude Cross
5. Occupation of observer: Oregon State Police Officer
6. Address of observer: District #1, Milwaukie, Oregon
7. Place of observation: Police station
8. Number of objects: 3
9. Distance of object from observer: N/S
10. Time in sight: N/S
11. Altitude: Undetermined
12. Speed: N/S Variable
13. Direction of flight: Northwest
14. Tactics: Three objects following each other at low level speed
15. Sound: None
16. Size: N/S
17. Color: Multiple brown spots as the sun was reflected from them
18. Shape: Disc
19. When detected: N/S
20. Apparent construction: N/S
21. Exhaust trails: N/S
22. Weather conditions: N/S
23. Effect on clouds: N/S
24. Sketches or photographs: None
25. Nature of disappearance: N/S
26. Remarks: (over)



CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS

1. Date 4 May 1967
2. Time 1305
3. Location Oregon
4. Name of observer Earl E. Parkerson
5. Occupation of observer Patrolman - former Air Corps pilot
6. Address of observer [REDACTED] Portland, Oregon
7. Place of observation Southeast 32nd and Foster Road, Portland
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer 1/2 S
10. Time in sight 1/2 S
11. Altitude Approx 30,000 ft
12. Speed Fastest - faster than any speed witness had ever seen
13. Direction of flight Southwesterly direction over Portland
14. Manoeuvres Made Performed 90° angle without difficulty - thought to be really controlled
15. Sound None
16. Size 1/2 S
17. Color Unknown
18. Shape Disc
19. True diameter 1/2 S
20. Apparent construction 1/2 S Apparently metallic or glass with slight reflect light
21. Exhaust trails None
22. Weather conditions 1/2 S
23. Effect on clouds 1/2 S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Name of observer 1/2 S
26. Remarks (over) [REDACTED]

DOWNGRADED IN INTERVALS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR DECLASSIFICATION

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UNCLASSIFIED

1. Date: 4 July 47
2. Time: 1305
3. Location: Portland, Oregon
4. Name of observer: W. A. Lisny
5. Occupation of observer: Patrolman - also a private pilot
6. Address of observer: Portland City Police Dept.
7. Place of observation: Ground
8. Number of objects: 3
9. Distance of object from observer: V/S
10. Time in sight: V/S
11. Altitude: 10,000 ft
12. Speed: variable
13. Direction of flight: South
14. Track: Straight-line formation except last disc straggled to side in arc
15. Sound: None
16. Size: V/S
17. Color: White
18. Shape: Disc
19. Glow detected: V/S
20. Apparent construction: V/S
21. Exhaust tracks: None
22. Weather conditions: Clear - with light or no cloud formations visible from ground
23. Effect on clouds: V/S - no clouds
24. Searches for photographs: None
25. Name of headquarters: V/S
26. Remarks: (over)

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CHECKLIST - HYDROLYSED TITANIC CRUISE

1. Date: July 14
2. Time: 1305
3. Location: Portland, Oregon
4. Name of observer: W. H. Miller
5. Occupation of observer: Engineer
6. Address of observer: Portland City Police Dept., Oregon
7. Place of observation: Portland, Oregon
8. Number of objects: 3
9. Distance of object from observer: 1/5
10. Time in sight: 1/5
11. Altitude: About 10,000 ft.
12. Speed: terrific
13. Direction of flight: South
14. Path: Straight line direction except last when distance to 500 ft. area
15. Sound: None
16. Size: N/S
17. Color: White
18. Shape: Disc
19. Color detected: 1/5
20. Apparent construction: 1/5
21. Exhaust trail: None
22. Weather conditions: Clear with little or no cloud formation visible from ground
23. Break in clouds: 1/5 - no clouds
24. Sketches or photographs: None
25. Name of ship: U.S.
26. Remarks: (over)

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Incident #5 -- Portland, Oregon -- 4 July 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this, incident, nor for numerous others (#6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16) which occurred in and near Portland on the Fourth of July, 1947.

Besides being observed in the same vicinity, and most of them at the same time, the objects seen have in common a round shape, "terrific" speed, abrupt tactics, and quick disappearance. Abrupt tactics certainly suggest that the objects were of a very light weight.

This investigator can offer no definite hypothesis, but in passing would like to note that these incidents occurred on the Fourth of July, and that if relatively small pieces of aluminum foil had been dropped from a plane over that area, then any one object would become visible at a relatively short distance. Even moderate wind velocities could give the illusion that fluttering, gyrating discs had gone by at great velocities. Various observers would not, of course, in this case have seen the same objects.

The above is not to be regarded as a very likely explanation but only as a possibility: the occurrence of these incidents on July 4 may have been more than a coincidence. Some prankster might have tossed such objects out of an airplane as part of an Independence Day celebration.

If these were aircraft of either known or unknown type,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

- 1. Date: 4 July 1947
- 2. Time: 1505
- 3. Location: Vancouver, Washington
- 4. Name of observer: John Sullivan
- 5. Occupation of observer: Sheriff's Deputy
- 6. Address of observer: Vancouver, Washington
- 7. Place of observation: Vancouver, Washington (ground)
- 8. Number of objects: 20 to 30
- 9. Distance of object from observer: 2 to 5 miles over horizon
- 10. Time in sight: 1/2
- 11. Altitude: 1/2
- 12. Speed: 1/2
- 13. Direction of flight: 1/2
- 14. Tactics: 1/2
- 15. Sound: low humming sound
- 16. Size: 1/2
- 17. Color: 1/2
- 18. Shape: "V" shaped - like flock of geese
- 19. Color distinct: 1/2
- 20. Apparent construction: 1/2
- 21. Simultaneous: 1/2
- 22. Weather conditions: 1/2
- 23. Effect on clouds: 1/2
- 24. Sketches or photographs: none
- 25. Nature of disappearance: 1/2
- 26. Remarks: (over)

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Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:

#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94,
95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140,
147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216,
219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:

#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 35, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100,
112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 163, 166, 167, 175, 192,
199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:

#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115,
126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163,
169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198,
200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:

#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107,
108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):

#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:

#38, 44, 45, 47, 56, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118,
126, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213,
229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:

#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 63, 71,
75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 152,
168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

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it would be difficult to explain their appearance over only one locality and at only one time, their apparent random motion, the lack of any sound or obvious propulsion method, and the lack of aerodynamic construction.

Incident #6 -- Milwaukee, Oregon -- 4 July 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident.

See report on incident #5.

[REDACTED]

Incident #7 -- Portland, Oregon -- 4 July 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident.

See report on incident #5.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Incident #8, 8a -- Portland, Oregon -- 4 July 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident.

See report on incident #5.

[REDACTED]

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Incident #9 -- Portland, Oregon -- 4 July 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident.

See report on incident #5.

[REDACTED]

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Incident #12 -- Vancouver, Washington -- 4 July 1947

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident.

See report on incident #5.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA

4AFDA / 1210
333.5 / ID

5 AUG 1947

SUBJECT: Investigation of "Flying Discs"

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.
ATTENTION: AC of AS-2

Attached MOIC and newspaper clipping forwarded your office in compliance with letter from Headquarters Air Defense Command, Mitchel Field, New York, subject as above, dated 7 July 47.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

William J. Sorenson

WILLIAM J. SORENSON,
CWO, U. S. Army,
Asst. Adjutant General.

- 2 Incls:
1. MOIC Sorensen 7 Jul 47.(dup)
2. Newspaper clipping dtd
5 Jul 47 (dup)

Info Cy to: Air Defense Command
Mitchel Field, N.Y.

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